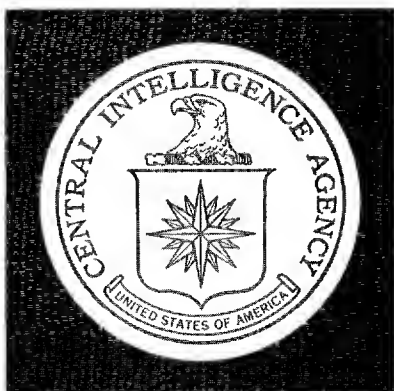


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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Czechoslovak leaders have gone directly to the people in an effort to retain popular support and yet establish conditions leading to Soviet troop withdrawal.

Party leader Dubcek, Premier Cernik, and President Svoboda visited several factories in the Prague area and reportedly called for "unity, consideration, and reason." They stressed that there must be no provocations against Soviet troops. Yesterday's edition of the party daily Rude Pravo also pointed out that one of the main tasks facing the Czechoslovak people is to "establish the conditions" for withdrawal of occupation forces. The Slovak central committee plenum yesterday announced its complete solidarity with the policies of the central authorities and appealed to each segment of the population--and especially to the students now beginning a new school year--to support the Czechoslovak leaders' policies. The Czechoslovak news agency also reflected this theme.

Moscow's press treatment continues to hold that the "counterrevolutionary" threat to Czechoslovakia has not ended. This has become the rationale for what will probably be a lengthy presence of Soviet troops on Czechoslovak soil.

A possible indication that some of the Warsaw Five would like to see Dubcek ousted was contained in an article printed in a Polish newspaper on 4 September. In an appraisal of the Czechoslovak central committee meeting of 31 August, the Prague correspondent of a Warsaw paper cited unnamed Czechoslovak sources as characterizing Dubcek as well-meaning, but weak and politically naive. This line--praise for Dubcek's intentions but deprecations of his abilities--could be used should the Soviets decide to ease Dubcek out of power.

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South Vietnam: Ground action in South Vietnam remained at low ebb on 4-5 September.

Communist activity was confined to shelling allied base camps north of Saigon and South Vietnamese outposts in the delta.

The Communists are making headway in their efforts to terrorize and intimidate the population, however, even in the absence of spectacular attacks. In areas under strong government control, the Viet Cong are concentrating on assassinations and other acts of terrorism.

Terrorist actions have been particularly widespread during the past two weeks in I Corps. In the Da Nang area, for example, the Communists coupled probes against military targets with raids on refugee camps and hamlets. They also penetrated the western sections of the provincial capital of Hoi An in two separate raids. The unstable political situation in the province has forced Saigon to postpone a government by-election scheduled for 8 September to fill a seat in the lower house of the National Assembly.

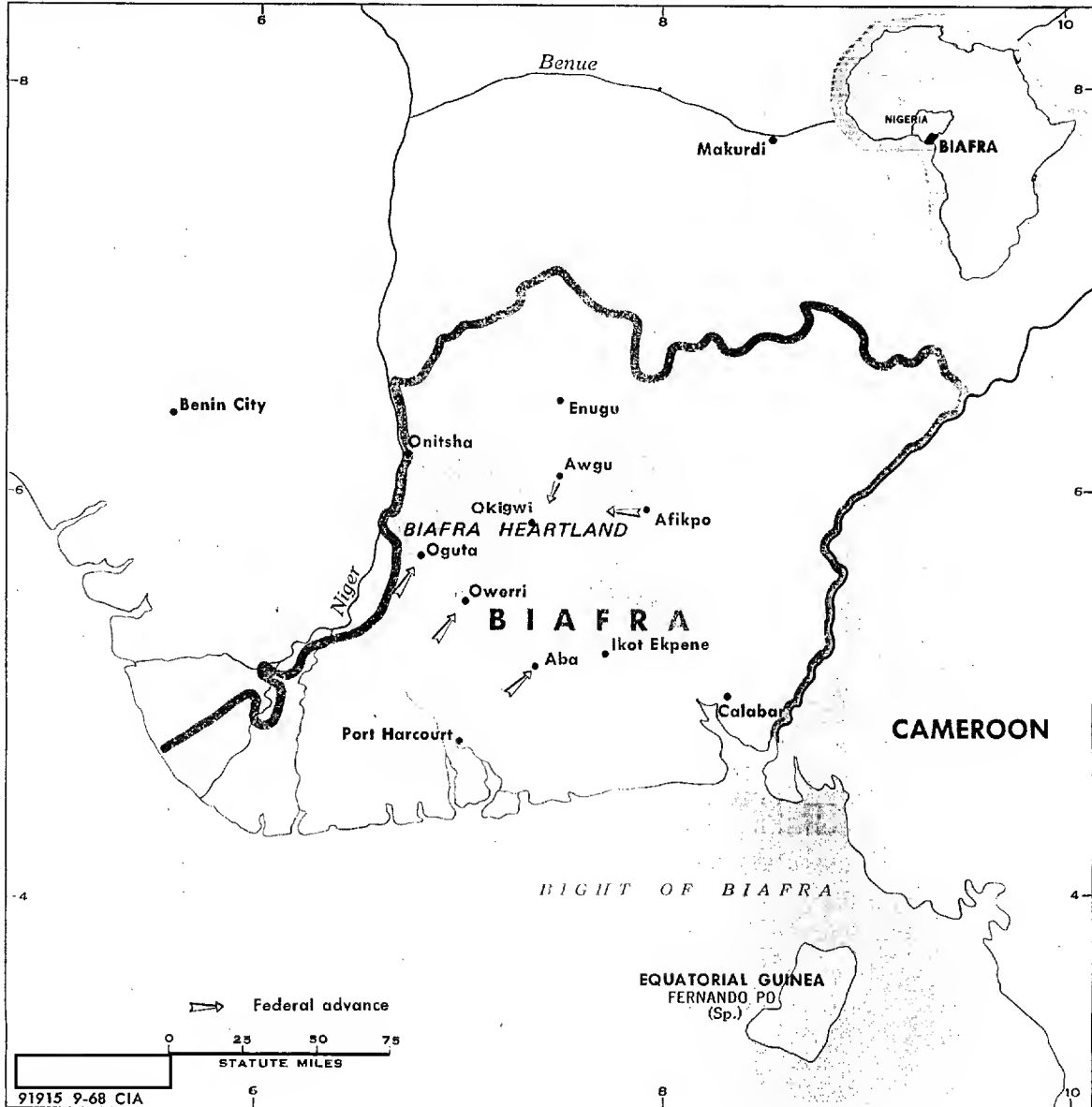
Popular reaction surveys taken in I and III corps by US officials suggest that during the recent upsurge in Communist military activity the Viet Cong have been successful in intimidating large portions of the population. In these surveys, many people are outspokenly critical of the government for not providing sufficient protection. The disaffection, however, does not appear to approach the scale noted during the Tet and May offensives. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Federal Forces Push into Biafran Heartland



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Nigeria: Federal military forces are pushing hard into Biafra's constricted heartland.

Federal plans are to occupy remaining major Biafran towns and especially to seize the airstrips used for munitions imports. The federal timetable, which calls for completing this task by about the middle of September, seems unrealistic, apparently even to General Gowon.

The Federal 3rd division, the leading ground gainer in recent months, captured Aba on 4 September after this key administrative center had been evacuated by the Biafrans. In other parts of the southern sector elements of the division are within a few miles of Owerri and Oguta. Okigwi is also threatened, but operations south of Onitsha remain stalled.

The Biafrans, who frequently have held federal forces in check for long periods, are still fighting hard. They have retained their military organization and often have preferred to retreat and counterattack rather than meet the better equipped federal forces head on. It seems likely that the Biafrans will continue to fight even should all their major towns be occupied. They probably have cached arms for this purpose.

The Biafrans have managed to maintain a slim flow of arms via their air shuttle services. Besides the now sporadic flights from Lisbon, they have set up, with French assistance, a five-plane shuttle from Libreville, Gabon. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in addition to French relief aid the planes are carrying arms of French origin, although [REDACTED] these were provided by Gabon, not France. Gabon is not believed to have sufficient arms stocks for this purpose. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Venezuela: The government this week dealt a blow to extremists who have been preparing to disrupt the presidential and congressional elections in December.

In Caracas, police captured eight members of the Castro-supported Movement of the Revolutionary Left and a large cache of ammunition and weapons. The group is believed responsible for the theft since January of nearly \$225,000 in robberies throughout Venezuela.

Earlier in the week, police in central Venezuela arrested terrorists who were planning to rob a bank in Apure State.

In the meantime, the government is increasing its security precautions. Interior Minister Leandro reportedly has called a meeting of the governors of the 20 states and two territories to discuss means of preventing extremist efforts to sabotage the elections.

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[Rumania: A nine-day hiatus in Soviet press attacks on Rumania was broken by a Pravda article on 4 September expressing anew Moscow's dissatisfaction with Bucharest's criticism of the Warsaw Five. The Pravda article follows the return to Moscow on 2 September of the Soviet ambassador to Rumania. He is not known to have been in Moscow since before the Czechoslovak invasion and his talks with Rumanian leader Ceausescu on 25 August. In contrast to this development [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] no Soviet ground units had been moved into Bulgaria. The exercise of Bulgarian forces in the northeastern part of the country continues and Yugoslav and Rumanian armed forces remain in a state of alert.

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Spain-Morocco: Madrid is preparing to announce that it will cede to Morocco its enclave of Ifni on the Atlantic coast of Morocco. After much footdragging in negotiations with Morocco, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Spain is now anxious to make the announcement soon. Madrid hopes that when the return of Gibraltar to Spain is considered at the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly, this will favorably influence anticolonial members. The Spanish ministers concerned have been instructed to resolve various problems related to the transfer as rapidly as possible. [REDACTED]

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South Korea: The Asian Development Bank on 3 September approved a \$6.8-million loan to South Korea. The bank has been criticized for its preoccupation with technical surveys and its restraint in granting loans for development projects. This is only the second loan to be extended by the bank since its founding in December 1965. The first was a \$5-million loan to Thailand in January 1968. The loan to South Korea is intended to cover all foreign exchange costs for construction of a 19-mile expressway from Seoul to the seaport of Incheon. The project is expected to be completed by 1970.



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